

outputting the generated electronic license.

2. (Amended) A license-issuing system which issues an electronic license for certifying that usage of digital contents is permitted to a specific user, the digital contents being provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, the system comprising:

verification information generation means for generating information for verification from a license-issuing center, the license-issuing center being independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller, the information for verification required to verify legitimacy of an electronic license;

verification information output means for outputting the information for verification generated by the verification information generation means;

license generation means which receives information to specify information for verification and generates the electronic license from the license-issuing center, the electronic license able to be verified by the information for verification specified by the received information; and

license output means for outputting the electronic license generated by the license generation means.

9. (Amended) A license intermediation method for intermediating a request for an electronic license for certifying that usage of digital contents is permitted to a specific user, the digital contents being provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, the method comprising:

receiving a first license request by the at least one of the provider and the seller, the first license request including a request for issuance of the electronic license for certifying that the usage of specific digital contents is permitted;

preparing, by the at least one of the provider and the seller, a second license request for requesting the issuance of the electronic license requested in the received first license request; and

outputting the prepared second license request to a license-issuing center, the license-issuing center being independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

10. (Amended) A license intermediation system that intermediates a request for an electronic license for certifying that usage of digital contents is permitted to a specific user, the digital contents being provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, the system comprising:

license request receiving means for receiving a first license request, by the at least one of the provider and the seller, the first license request including a request for the issuance of the electronic license for certifying that the usage of specific digital contents is licensed;

license request preparing means for generating, from the at least one of the provider and the seller, a second license request for requesting the issuance of the electronic license requested in the received first license request; and

license request output means for outputting the second license request prepared in the license request preparing means to a license-issuing center, the license-issuing center being independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

16. (Amended) An agreement issuing method for allowing intermediation of a request for an electronic license for certifying that usage of digital contents is permitted to a specific user, the digital contents being provided by a provider, the method comprising:

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inputting information to the provider to specify an mediator who intermediates a request for an electronic license for digital contents, wherein the electronic

license is issued by a license-issuing center, the license-issuing center being independent from the provider and the intermediator;

inputting information to the provider to specify the digital contents the intermediation of which is permitted to the intermediator;

generating an agreement from the provider for certifying that the intermediation of the request for the electronic license for the specified digital contents is permitted to the specified intermediator; and

outputting the generated agreement to the license-issuing center, wherein the license-issuing center verifies whether the intermediator is a specified intermediator.

17. (Amended) An agreement issuing system which issues an agreement for allowing intermediation of a request for an electronic license for certifying that usage of digital contents is permitted to a specific user, the digital contents being provided by a provider, the system comprising:

agreement generating means which receives, for the provider, information to specify an intermediator that intermediates a request for an electronic license of digital contents and information to specify the digital contents the request for the electronic license of which the intermediator is allowed to intermediate, and generates from the provider an agreement for certifying that the specified intermediator is allowed to intermediate the request for the electronic license of the specified digital contents, where the electronic license is issued by a license-issuing center, the license-issuing center being independent from the provider and the intermediator; and

agreement output means for outputting the agreement generated by the agreement generating means to the license-issuing center, wherein the license-issuing center verifies whether the intermediator is a specified intermediator.

20. (Amended) A feature providing method for providing a user with one or more features, comprising:

storing information for verification to verify an electronic license for certifying that usage of all or part of features is permitted to a specific user;

inputting an electronic license;

verifying legitimacy of the input electronic license using the stored information for verification; and

activating at least part of the features only if it is judged that the input electronic license is legitimate;

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wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the one or more features were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

21. (Amended) A digital contents operation method, comprising:

storing information for verification to verify an electronic license for certifying that operation of digital contents is permitted to a specific user;

inputting an electronic license;

verifying legitimacy of the input electronic license using the stored information for verification; and

enabling at least part of operations of the digital contents only if it is judged that the input electronic license is legitimate;

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the digital contents were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

22. (Amended) A digital contents decrypting method for decrypting encrypted digital contents, comprising:

storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that decrypting of encrypted digital contents is permitted to a specific user;

inputting an electronic license;

verifying legitimacy of the input electronic license using the stored information for verification; and

decrypting the encrypted digital contents only if it is judged that the input electronic license is legitimate;

at
wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the encrypted digital contents were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

23. (Amended) A digital contents decompression method for decompressing compressed digital contents, comprising:

a step for storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that the decompression of compressed digital contents is permitted to a specific user;

a step for inputting an electronic license;

a step for verifying the legitimacy of the input electronic license using the stored information for verification; and

a step for decompressing the compressed digital contents only if it is judged that the input electronic license is legitimate;

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the compressed digital contents were provided by at

least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

24. (Amended) A system that provides one or more features to a user, comprising:

verification information storage means for storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that usage of all or a part of features of the system is permitted to a specific user; and

license verification means which receives an electronic license and verifies legitimacy of the received electronic license using the information for verification stored in the verification information storage means, wherein:

at least part of the features is activated only if it is judged in the license verification means that the received electronic license is legitimate;

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, one or more features were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

25. (Amended) A digital contents operation system, comprising:

verification information storage means for storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that operation of digital contents is permitted to a specific user; and

license verification means which receives an electronic license and verifies legitimacy of the received electronic license using the information for verification stored in the verification information storage means, wherein:

at least part of the operations of digital contents is enabled only if it is judged in the license verification means that the received electronic license is legitimate;

*as if
cont'd*

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the digital contents were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

27. (Amended) A digital contents decrypting system for decrypting encrypted digital contents, comprising:

verification information storage means for storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that decrypting of encrypted digital contents is permitted to a specific user; and

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license verification means which receives an electronic license and verifies legitimacy of the received electronic license using the information for verification stored in the verification information storage means, wherein:

the encrypted digital contents are decrypted only if it is judged in the license verification means that the received electronic license is legitimate;

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the encrypted digital contents were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

29. (Amended) A digital contents decompression system for decompressing compressed digital contents, comprising:

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means for receiving compressed digital contents to be decompressed; verification information storage means for storing information for verification to verify an electronic license that certifies that decompression of digital contents is permitted to a specific user; and

license verification means which receives an electronic license and verifies legitimacy of the received electronic license using the information for verification stored in the verification information storage means, wherein:

the compressed digital contents are decompressed only if it is judged in the license verification means that the received electronic license is legitimate;

wherein the information for verification and the electronic license were generated from a license-issuing center, the compressed digital contents were provided by at least one of a provider and a seller, and the license-issuing center is independent from the at least one of the provider and the seller.

~~Please add new claims 35-48 as follows:~~

--35. The license-issuing method of claim 1, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--36. The license-issuing system of claim 2, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--37. The license intermediation method of claim 9, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--38. The license intermediation system of claim 10, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--39. The agreement issuing method of claim 16, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--40. The agreement issuing system of claim 17, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--

--41. The feature providing method of claim 20, wherein the license is generated only from the license-issuing center.--